

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/814,912	VANDENHAUTE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Ngoc-Yen M. Nguyen	1754	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to _____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-18.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 31 March 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Joshua Elliott on February 4, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. A process for the production of ZnCl_2 from a Zn bearing primary and/or secondary material, comprising the steps of:

reacting the Zn bearing material with a chlorinating agent to convert metals present in the Zn bearing material into chlorides to form a reaction product and vaporising ~~the volatile~~ components of the reaction product more volatile than ZnCl_2 at a temperature between the melting point of said reaction product and the boiling point of ZnCl_2 , thereby recovering a Zn rich chlorinated melt,

converting metal impurities which are present in said Zn rich chlorinated melt into insoluble oxides by adding a metal oxide to the melt, and subsequently

distilling ZnCl_2 from the Zn rich chlorinated melt, thereby recovering purified ZnCl_2 and a Zn-depleted chlorinated melt.

13. A process for the production of metallic Zn and Cl_2 comprising the steps of:
reacting the Zn bearing material with a chlorinating agent to convert metals present in the Zn bearing material into chlorides to form a reaction product and vaporising ~~the volatile~~ components of the reaction product more volatile than ZnCl_2 at a temperature between the melting point of said reaction product and the boiling point of ZnCl_2 , thereby recovering a Zn rich chlorinated melt,

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converting metal impurities which are present in said Zn rich chlorinated melt into insoluble oxides by adding a metal oxide to the melt,
distilling ZnCl_2 from the Zn rich chlorinated melt, thereby recovering purified ZnCl_2 and a Zn-depleted chlorinated melt, and
subjecting the purified ZnCl_2 to dry electrolysis to produce metallic Zn and Cl_2 .

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art does not disclose or suggest a process for producing zinc chloride by remove the less volatile metal chloride from a reaction product to obtain a zinc rich chlorinated melt before subjecting such melt to a distillation process to recover purified zinc chloride.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

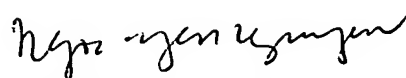
The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ngoc-Yen M. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-1356. The examiner is currently on Part time schedule.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Stan Silverman can be reached on (571) 272-1358. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9306.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed (571) 272-1700.



Ngoc-Yen M. Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1754

nmn
February 7, 2005